

Welch: I Couldn't

Believe My

Friends Would

Kill Someone

Flynn Was Unsure of Love, But Said 'Sex Was Great'

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EXETER — Feeling "sick" and "shocked" at learning his three best friends had killed Gregory Smart, Ralph Welch did what he thought was the right thing — he turned them in to the police, he testified yesterday.

"I couldn't believe it. I really didn't want to," Welch said. "I was sort of shocked, sick, that they would do something like that. I had grown up with them. I couldn't believe my best friends would kill someone."

William Flynn, 17, Vance Lattime Jr., 18 and Patrick "Pete" Randall, 17, were arrested in June after Welch told Lattime's parents what his friends had done and they notified the police.

■ Gregory Smart's mother says of Pamela: "I really do hate that girl." Page 20

Welch's testimony marked the seventh day of the trial of Smart's widow Pamela, 23, charged with plotting and helping the three teens carry out the May 1 murder.

Gregory Smart, 24, was robbed, then shot once in the head as he entered his Derry condominium and called to his dog.

Flynn has admitted to firing the single .38 caliber hollow point bullet to the head that killed Smart, while Randall held Smart down. Lattime supplied

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PAMELA SMART, left, listened yesterday to Sara Thomas, center, and Ralph Welch testify about the actions of William Flynn, Patrick "Pete" Randall, and Vance Lattime before and after the murder of Gregory Smart. Yesterday marked the seventh day of the accomplice-to-murder trial of Pamela Smart in Rockingham County Superior Court.

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the handgun and drove the getaway car.

A fourth teen, Raymond Fowler, 19, is awaiting trial on charges stemming from an alleged earlier attempt on Smart's life. He is also charged with falsifying physical evidence — cleaning the gun used in the murder.

Weeping, Flynn testified this week he carried out the killing at the bidding of Pamela Smart, who he said had been his lover since February.

"I wanted to be with Pame (her family's spelling of her nickname) and that's what I had to do to be with Pame," Flynn said Tuesday.

Sara Thomas, a friend of Flynn's, testified yesterday she had seen letters written by Smart to Flynn. Some of the letters, she said, were sexually explicit.

On cross-examination, Thomas was asked if the letters said anything about planning the murder. Thomas said no.

Defense attorney Mark Sisti also asked Thomas if she ever asked Flynn if he loved Smart. Thomas said she had.

"He said he didn't know, but the sex was great," she replied.

Welch, who lived with Lattime's family at the time of the murder, said yesterday he first learned of his friends' involvement in June.

He said his cousin, Daniel Blake, approached him saying Flynn should punch Fowler for "shooting his mouth off about them killing that guy."

He said he went to Lattime's room, where Lattime and Randall were talking, and asked them about what Blake had told him. Welch said Lattime and Randall said they hadn't been involved in the killing.

But after leaving Lattime's room, Welch said he tiptoed back and listened at the door.

"I heard a whispering voice 'Bill's going to be pissed. You know who's going to be next,'" Welch said, adding he knew at that time "they did it."

Upon confronting them, Randall told the whole story. In a "normal" tone of voice, Welch said, Randall told him Smart was "worth more dead than alive."

"They said Gregg never even saw it coming," Welch said.

"I guess I couldn't believe it that it didn't even bother them that they'd killed somebody."

Randall said "This is what they do in the army, they do it every day," Welch testified. "He said when he grew up he wanted to be a trained assassin — sarcastically. He said he and Bill did Hail Marys before they did it. He said Gregg was an (expletive) and treated Pame like (expletive)."

Confused and upset at what his friends told him, Welch went to Maine, where Fowler was staying, to warn him of what he believed was his friends' intention to kill Fowler, too.

"I didn't want another person to get killed," he said.

The next morning, Welch testified, he told Randall he didn't want him and Flynn around the Lattime's house anymore or around the Lattime's two-year-old child. "There was a baby in the house and I didn't think it was right they were around," he said.

When he tried to push Randall off the property, Randall hit him in the face, and put him in a choke hold, Welch said. He fell, he recalled, hitting his head on a rock and blacking out.

Later that day, he said, Flynn called and tried to tell him the whole thing wasn't true. "He said 'If Pame finds out, she'll kill me,'" he recalled, "He said she meant everything to him and he didn't want to lose her."

"He kept saying 'You know I wouldn't do anything like that,'" Welch said. "I said 'I know you did do it.'"

Welch said Flynn wanted to meet with him, but Welch refused. "I figured they'd probably try to do something to me, kill me maybe," he said.

Welch said he told Lattime's parents the story and they brought the gun to Seabrook police. Welch also went to the police and told his story.

The next day, the three were arrested.

Under cross-examination, Welch said his friends never told him anything about Smart's involvement except they were to be paid \$500 each from the \$140,000 insurance settlement she expected to receive.

But he did say Lattime pointed to two speakers that were in his room. Welch recalled Pamela Smart had driven Gregory's

truck to Lattime's house and Lattime removed the speakers, telling Welch he was paying her for them.

"How do you think I got those," Welch said Lattime told him.

Welch also testified he heard Flynn talking about taking Pamela's car to "do Gregg."

Flynn was laughing when he said it and Welch said he didn't take Flynn seriously.

"He wasn't overcome with grief as he told you this?" asked defense attorney Paul Twomey, referring to Flynn's emotional testimony of the day before.

"No, he was laughing. That's why I didn't take him seriously," Welch said.

"Were tears coming from his eyes?" Twomey asked.

"No," Welch said.